

How to Get on Approved Surveyor Lists in Virginia for: Federally Listed Species

May 24, 2016

To apply to be added to a species surveyor list(s), please send your completed package to:
virginiafieldoffice@fws.gov

The package should state which species surveyor list(s) you wish to be added to, a summary of your experience with the species, and any letters of recommendation from surveyors already on our list or other recognized species experts. The summary of your experience needs to be sufficient to convince the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that you are able to recognize the species in the wild, including its appropriate habitat. You should explain how many times you have surveyed for the species, with whom you were accompanied, and whether you found the species. At a minimum, we believe you need to have identified the species in the wild on at least one occasion. Multiple “negative” surveys will not be considered sufficient experience. The single best piece of evidence to establish expertise is a letter of recommendation from someone already on our pre-approved surveyor list or from a recognized expert elsewhere in the country.

Please be assured that our intent is not to artificially limit those whom we recommend as qualified surveyors. Rather, we are trying to ensure that people who contract with the surveyors on our lists can feel confident that these surveyors have sufficient training to identify the species and that the survey results will be accepted as a definitive answer as to whether a species is likely to occur on their property.

If approved, the surveyor’s name, address, phone, and email contact information will be put on our website. We will assume the surveyor grants consent to publish contact information unless we are specifically asked not to do so.

Inclusion of a name on our surveyor lists does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or any other U.S. Government agency. Our surveyor lists contain individuals who we have already determined are qualified to conduct surveys for a particular species. Our lists do not include all individuals who may be qualified to survey for any particular species. If someone selects a surveyor not on our lists, we will ask to see the surveyor’s qualifications 30 days prior to the start of the survey.

Please note that surveying for some animal species may require a permit from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Please contact the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to determine whether a State permit is needed at the following address:

Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries
Attn: Shirl Dressler
P.O. Box 90778
Henrico, VA 23228-0778
Phone: (804) 367-6913

How to Get on Approved Surveyor Lists in Virginia for: Karst Geology Assessments

March 20, 2013

To be considered qualified to conduct karst geology assessments in Virginia, you must meet the following qualifications/criteria:

1. Must have experience in the field mapping, identifying, and inventorying surface karst features
2. Must be a Professional Engineer (PE) with a Geotechnical (Civil) Engineering specialty and 5-years' experience in karst geology and/or hydrology studies;
(or)
Must be a PE with a Geotechnical (Civil) Engineering specialty and 7 years of experience in rock or soil mechanics and karst issues;
(or)
Must be a Certified Professional geologist with a minimum of 5 years of experience in karst studies and engineering geology;
(or)
Must be a State licensed Geologist with minimum 5 years of experience in karst studies and engineering geology
(or)
Must possess a baccalaureate and/or post-graduate degree in the science of geology from an accredited university (or equivalent), with specific training and experience in groundwater hydrology, and related fields with a minimum of 5-years' experience in karst studies

Submit your package to: virginiafieldoffice@fws.gov